

From the Editor

de W7MWF

Happy Independence Day and a glorious 236th Birthday to the United States of America!

WOW. On the last full weekend of June, I had the privilege of participating in my first ever Field Day. I can't begin to describe what a fantastic experience it was. There were lots of folks under the leadership of Al N7OMS who made it all happen, and with such seemingly simple effort. Everyone pitched in and helped at some task, regardless of if it was in support of their own station, another station, or general facilities.

I know of no one being injured, except for aching backs from lots of us. I don't believe any equipment was damaged. Spirits remained high throughout the entire weekend, in spite of some extremely adverse conditions posed by Mother Nature at her finest. Hat's off to everyone for their support of this event. I think we truly demonstrated that we had excellent functionality under semi-primitive conditions.

In other news, the Annual Kirkreit Picnic held at Spanaway Park on June 9 was reported as having been a success with lots of grub and cold, windy weather. Great work by our Vice President Casey WY7V in coordinating the get-together.

On June 16th, the bids were opened for the items offered in the Members-Only Auction. The club netted additional funds for club activities. A hat tip to Frank AC7JY and the Property Management Team, and also to all of the bidders, whether successful or unsuccessful.

Finally, please take note of the upcoming Hidden Transmitter Hunt, sponsored by Rich KR7W, to be held on the afternoon of Saturday, July 7 at Point Defiance Park. See elsewhere in The Bark for more details, and be sure to check the club website w7dk.org



In This Month's Issue

From the Editor.....	Page 1
Meeting Minutes	Page 2
2012 Field Day Report & Photos.....	Page 4
Bunny Hunt Information.....	Page 7
KR7W Show & Tell.....	Page 8
Club Contact Information.....	Page 11
Regular Event Schedule.....	Page 12

**Board of Directors Meeting
2 May 2012**

The 2 May 2012 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. President Gary McAdams called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Casey Hicks WY7V
Board Member	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	James Mendenhall E6WHN

Minutes:

The minutes of the 4 April 2012 Board meeting as coordinated and corrected, were approved without objection.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: None reported

SECRETARY'S REPORT: None

TREASURER'S REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: No report

Repeater Committee: -

Nick K7MO: The crystals for the 147.38 repeater have been received. The 145.21 repeater at the Channel 28 site remains in service.

Property Management: -

Frank AC7JY presented a Property Management **membership auction list** for board approval. Following the list review and discussion,

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the list for disposition.

Frank AC7JY proposed a property management budget for the year in the amount of \$ 300.00 to cover maintenance, repair and some remodeling work. Following discussion,

A motion was made, seconded and approved to provide a \$ 300.00 budget.

The Property Management Committee requested approval of \$ 150.00 for repair, maintenance and remodeling the garage to accommodate a test and work bench.

A motion was made, seconded and

passed to approve \$ 150.00 for the garage maintenance, test and work bench remodeling.

Equipment loan ad hoc committee

The committee tabled a proposed RCT equipment loan policy and procedure document for the board members to review and consider. The committee asked for a decision from the board at the next board meeting.

Emergency Operations Plan: No report

Larry Watson KD4VOM reports that scheduling problems and vacations have pushed the EmComm All Hands meeting to June 21st.

Training: Technician Class 9-10 June Information on the W7DK.org website.

Facilities Remodel Committee: – AI N7OMS

New blinds have been ordered for the Simmons' room. The doors are being repainted.

RCT Information Technology Committee:–

Randy Myers WB4SPB reports progress has been made on several items, the inventory and evaluation of current hardware and software. The team intends to review and verify the requirements and goals before completing the recommendations, and present that information to the board for their review and consideration.

W7DK Kirkreit Picnic: Casey WY7V Reports the Picnic plans continue need to order food and find a cook...

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Emergency Power Generator Replacement: Nick K7MO continues to believe we should not have sold the old generators, and that we should seek a replacement which would provide ample power for the club. AI N7OMS noted that the approved Emergency Operations Plan calls only for battery backup and then evolve as the club members demonstrate their commitment to the process.

Radio Club of Tacoma

Recommend accepting KD4VOM's offer of a temporary generator until the emergency committee is in place and creates/defines the demand for emergency equipment.

RCT Bylaws Revision: Larry KD4VOM
No report

NEW BUSINESS:

Web Site: Joe Lester K7ZG notes that the new website is mostly in place, and is using the Jumla content management system.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to reimburse Joe for the web-site hosting expenses.

General Membership Meeting May 9, 2012

The General Membership Meeting was held on May 9, 2012 at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. No official business was transacted and minutes are not available.

General Membership Meeting May 23, 2012

The General Membership Meeting was held on May 9, 2012 at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. No official business was transacted and minutes are not available.



Have you been troubled by high SWR readings?

Logger's Bark July 2012

Appointment: President Gary appointed Bruce Hansen WE7P to serve KE7WTK's remaining board term.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Weedeater: Bob K7MXE announced a used weedeater has been purchased and the bill sent to the Treasurer.

CW Filter for the Collins A4: Randy WB4SBP asked how to propose the purchase of a CW filter for the Collins A4.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

W9NUF—A Five-Meter Bike!

The photo below shows George H. Nibbe, W9NUF, all ready to take off on a five-meter jaunt à la bicyclette. Portable-mobile W9NUF uses a transceiver with a 19 in the unity-coupled cir-



cuit with grid modulation, the input being slightly under three watts. The signals have been heard over a distance of about two miles, several stations having been worked. The antenna, which probably won't show in the reproduction, is a four-foot vertical rod mounted on the board across the handlebars, and is worked against the frame of the bicycle.

No worries about ignition noise with this rig!

A pair of 6's working at a San Francisco store have the calls GIN and FIZ, which, says W6KBY, makes a darn nice combination!

QST for October, 1935

**2012 Radio Club of Tacoma
Field Day June 23-24, 2012**

Report by Field Day Chairman Al N7OMS

Photos Courtesy John AC7WW and Connie, Karl K7KHJ, Mike K7STO, Joe K7ZG, David K7HTJ, and Randy WB4SPB

The 2012 Field Day for the Radio Club of Tacoma was again held on the grounds of Western State Hospital. As we soon to discover, the site has good drainage characteristics. Often our strongest memories include events that had an extreme element to them. Our extreme element this year was water. It rained and rained on Saturday, but thanks to the snug shelters several members provided all was good.

Let's start at Bill's W7QI station for 75/80.



He again provided a 'sit and operate' experience for several of the club's member. He also had some excellent snacks for visitor's to try. Bill's effort meant one transmitter 1 CW and 163 ph contacts for 265 points.



Next will be the effort of Chuck AC7QN and Rich KR7W on 40 Meter CW.



Rich has held several training efforts and a CW class in the recent past. While I did not see any of his new code ninja's at the Key he has raised the profile of CW within the club. Their work counted as the second transmitter and 509 CW QSOs for 1118 points. In the same shelter was the 20 Meter CW station sponsored by Joe K7ZG and Randy WB4SPB. This was quite a classy setup, with a custom shoji screen from the labs of Acme with design elements from IKEA. This will be a third transmitter and 797 CW QSOs for 1694 points. This score is the highest for any one group at the W7DK Field Day.

Across the pond was the 20 Meter Phone station ably run by Mike W7XTZ and Mike W7MWF.



They used the club's new ICOM Pro III with an Acme Lab's interface with good results. Transmitter number four with 772 Ph QSOs earned us another 872 points.

Well to the West of the kitchen was the 15 all-mode group. Mike W7GHW and Jim KE7PapaVictorZulu used the club's older TenTec on some of the newer modes like PSK. A lot of teaching was provided at this location by Bruce WE7P.



For a mode that ends up being Key Board work the learning curve can be steep. This was transmitter five with 26 ph and 102 CW and digital QSOs. Let's see $26 + (2 \times 102) + 100 = 330$ points.

10 meters was handled by Wayne KF7SOV.

He brought his station on wheels to our site. Way cool Wayne! I hope he can be involved again with his station. It reminded me of covered wagons but sporting a tower and a beam.

If you got a chance to go inside you would



have seen the station computer. I mean really see it as Wayne has it mounted in a clear case of his own design. This brought us up to six transmitters. So our exchange was 6A Western Washington W7DK. Points added to total was 28 ph and 100 for transmitter = 128.

Field Day scoring is not just about QSOs and number of transmitters. If you read the rules you can add other points for a variety of things. Like UHF and VHF which we can add thanks to Charles KD7UAN and GOTA because Bob AD7LJ and Larry K7LDR manned the GOTA table using the W7OS call sign. Over the next few days I will be going over



the FD records and the ARRL rules so I can get all the credit we deserve. If you add up all the scores I have given you so far you can get a fair idea. Be sure to add the points for the Field Day bulletin and thanks to Randy we also get credit for eleven traffic messages. Now let's see did anyone see an elected government official?

If I had my way we would also get points for the Kitchen staff of Jan K7HTU and Franky KF7FEF for all the great food. We had a

great effort by the club membership. Every contribution counted, from filling the FD Pig at meetings to donations of shelter's and equipment. I know the rain put a damper on things but I hope that all who attended had a memorable time. I sure did and I hope to see you all in the future so I can say thank you.

Field Day Chair AI N7OMS



BUNNY HUNT INFORMATION

This Just In... Announcing the first **Amateur Radio Direction Finding** event of the year in the Greater Tacoma Area. On Saturday, July 7 at Noon, Rich KR7W will have hidden 7 or 8 transmitters for Bunny Hunters, Fox Hunters, Hidden-T Hunters to find. The course is open until 5 PM.

This event begins at the Fort Nisqually History Museum picnic area parking lot. Participants can hunt only on foot or use their vehicle to get closer to the T. (KR7W advocates a co-pilot for car hunting). The overall winner will receive a handsome art project trophy repurposed from an old discarded trophy to keep until next years event.

There will be one or two 'not so difficult' Hidden-Ts for the beginner to find... and there will be some loaner equipment on hand to attach to **your 2 meter** hand-held radio. Don't forget to bring your radio's instructions if you are not sure how to change the frequency or squelch. An extra battery will come in handy, also. Also, the hunter does not need to be a licensed ham to participate.

This is a great opportunity to introduce your grandchildren or other family members to ham radio. Bring the family, have a picnic, and a take a walk in the woods on the park's vast trail system. [please don't feed the wildlife]

The Tacoma ARDF events usually draws a lot of ARDF enthusiasts from the surrounding area... and the Fox Hunters from British Columbia have been invited.

Hidden Transmitter Hunt
Saturday, July 7, 12 Noon
Pt. Defiance Park
Ft Nisqually
www.w7dk.org
for info

Bunny Hunt

Fox Hunt

SHOW and TELL

by: Rich
kr7w

Hey Joe.. Check this out! It's an ARRL publication from 1952 on how to operate a ham station. I found it in a box of stuff an old ham

gave me a long time ago before he moved into the assisted living apartments. Remember him? He's the guy who gave me the old WW2 era Motorola Police Radio base station cabinet with the cool meters. I read through this pamphlet and it has lots of useful tidbits for hams of all generations, license classes, beginners or noobies.

The first thing that comes to mind is that the young man's operating desk is so very neat.



It reminds me of that old WW2 Navy Radio training film that Randy and I showed to the CW class last November. Mr Narrator stressed that a good (CW) operator will "Keep the Deck Clean"... no unnecessary items to get in the way, no extra papers to make the job at hand confusing, and all the necessary tools within easy reach..

I like how Mr Ham of 1952 has his Telegraph key (a bug) parked in its garage out of the way, but ready for action. I see notebooks, an ARRL Handbook, and possibly his log book (highly legal back then). Ya had to have a clock to note the exact on/off the air times for the log. He probably keeps his pencils and pens in the desks center drawer, in-case you were wondering.

The equipment? I am gonna venture a guess that the left hand device is a RME receiver and the other piece of equipment is a homebrew transmitter, CW and AM of course because SSB wasn't developed for hams in 1952. Hey, look! There is a "Rag Chewers Club" award on the wall. Remember that

one? Ya had to have a QSO that lasted longer than 60 minutes with a ham that was already in the (Rag Chewers) club. The RCC member would then notify the ARRL of the noobie's nomination into the club and the ARRL would send the new ham his/her certificate. Most now-a-days hams don't know about this award because it used to be 'free' from the ARRL, then they began charging \$\$ for membership in the RCC, and finally the program was discontinued in 2004. But wait! It's been rescued by the SPAR, i.e. The Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio. Thanks to modern technology the applicant (the noobie) submits a report of a QSO that lasted longer than 30 minutes and then sometime later receive a PDF document to print out and place among your other shack 'wall paper'. There are endorsement stickers for phone, CW and digital. How 'bout that. Easy-Peasy and it's a give-away to encourage being loquacious on the air.

In this 20 page pamphlet there is lots of info regarding the NTS (Network Traffic System) for message handling using CW or Phone, Emergency Coordinators and Section ECs, CW and Phone Relay Stations, Official Observers, Q Signals, How to keep your station on frequency, and more. All of what's in the pamphlet pretty much exists today... but some things like message handling are not as popular except for ECC work. What's different, I see, is the pamphlet calls "The WORD LIST for Voice Work". When I was a young ham in the '60s, my call sign was William Adam Seven Baker David John. Now-a Days, the International Phonetic Alphabet dictates it would be Whiskey Alpha Seven Bravo Delta Juliet. Seems like big gun contesters haven't caught on to today's alphabet (IMHO). I plan on handing off this oldie but goody publication to the RCT Library folks to place in their Lending Library.

While at the SEA PAC hamfest this year... I attended a presentation on SOTA, Summits On the Air. It is sorta like IOTA but the goal is to be on a Mountain Top with your radio and make radio contact. [WAIT!! Don't stop reading here because you think you cant participate in this because you don't 'hit the trail' any longer... There's more!!]

SOTA is a very complicated game (for lack of a better word), scheme, or plan that involves two classes of hams: The **Summit Activator** and the **Chaser**. The activator is the ham who takes his transceiver to the summit (or near the summit), sets it up, and makes at least four QSOs with other hams. The

QSOs can be on High Frequency SSB or CW and/or VHF FM. Once the four QSOs are made then you (the mountain topper) has "activated" this summit.

The other class of SOTA ham is the "Chaser". The Chaser is in her/his shack waiting for the call of "CQ SOTA" on the popular HF QRP Frequencies or the VHF calling frequencies. The Chaser, sometimes called a "Shack Sloth" is a very important part of the whole game. Without the Chaser the Activator may not have made the needed 4 QSOs for the 'activation' of the peak. There's more...

Joe wants to know, "What is a Summit?" The SOTA rules state that the topology of the mountain top must have a prominence of 150 meters. To me that sorta means that the peak must be elevated at least 450 feet above average terrain. "Ya mean like Dege Peak?", Joe asks. Well, no. While Dege Peak is very high up and has breathtaking views and a person could drop to his/her death 300 meters down the north side... it does not qualify because it is part of a ridge. It does not have the 150 meter rise in elevation on all sides— it lacks the necessary prominence. All of the qualifying summits on our planet can be found in a database on the www.sota.org.uk website. Ya gotta drill down to W7, then WA, then RS for Rainier Salish to see what is a summit around here. Of course, there is more...

Different summits have different amounts of points awarded once activated. An example is Green Mountain, near Bremerton. It is worth 2 points because it's elevation is not all that high in the big scheme of things. Mt Rainier's summit is worth 10 points. Mount Freemont, in Mt Rainier National Park, near the Sunrise Visitor Center is worth 8 points. Joe asks, "8 points? It's not much of a hike!" Well, it seems the point scheme is not about difficulty getting there but about elevation and prominence. Mt Freemont is pretty high up and is prominent along the horizon but it's a fairly easy 4 mile round trip hike from the car.

Before I forget... Chasers get points for making a contact with the Activator... if the Peak is activated. The peak becomes activated by the mountain topper entering her/his log of QSOs into the 'Summit Log' part of the SOTA.org.uk webpage. The Chaser then can log their QSO(s) on the webpage.

Joe is browsing the Summit Details database for

W7/WA/RS (our neighborhood) and has noticed that RCT's own Andrew K7ASK has activated at least one summit.

Even though I have day-hiked or backpacked to a couple of the more prominent summits in our area... and have made radio contact from some of these places... my QSOs from these places are not logged in SOTA because I didn't know about it then. But now, I have one QSO logged as a Chaser/Shack Sloth.



Here's Pre-SOTA old foto of KR7W operating his little Elecraft KX1 from Shriner Peak (W7/RS-036), elevation 5834' in Mt Rainier National Park, which is a SOTA peak worth 6 points. It should have been at least an 8 pointer cuz it is a pretty hard hike. One of the Shriner QSOs was with a VE6 ham operating mobile operating CW. "I'll be back", said like Arnold. Oh yah, the Antenna is a TV twinlead 20 meter inverted Vee about 15 ft high in the center and the output power was about 2 watts.

Last week when I was testing my Field Day station... I had it connected to my antenna. Just for funzies I was tuning the 20 Meter CW QRP calling frequency of 14.060. I heard a weak, "CQ CQ SOTA CQ SOTA DE WO6M. I called this QRPer and made contact. This mountain topper was at the summit of Mt Pacifica east of Los Angeles, CA. I asked him his peak's designator number and how many points. He responded with W6/CT015 for 6 points. WooHoo... good for him. He asked me to 'SPOT' him on the SOTAWatch website. I hadn't done this before... and had to create myself a login and password... but I was successful and would like to think my efforts helped WO6M make 14 QSOs from Mt Pacifica.

Most of the time Summit Activators register their upcoming venture to their summit on the Sotawatch website. The website shows the SOTA summit number and the number of points the peak is worth. Also, more avid Activators have ARPS along with them. The Chasers can watch the activator's progress getting to the peak and allows them to know the approximate time to start calling or listening on the designated frequency.

There's also a Pacific Northwest SOTA website for local info: www.pnwsota.org. www.sotawatch.org and www.sota.org.uk are linked to each other for easy logging and spotting. I encourage you all to check out sota.org.uk and read up on this. Remember, you don't have to use CW / Morse Code to participate as most SOTA contacts are made by newer hams using SSB on the HF Pack SSB frequencies of 14.342.5 and 14.346.0. And you don't have to leave your shack, either. Give it a try.

For more info... go to Youtube and search for *Summits on the Air*. Choose videos by 'goathiker'. They are very entertaining and informative. And always with Youtube... You'll get lots of chances to waste time.

My next Show n Tell topic is: **QRP is ME... Not YOU.** But I am out of time and space... so this topic will be continued next time. Best Regards to all and to all a good night. -30- KR7W

The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA needs your donations...

IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UNNEEDED AMATEUR RADIO OR RELATED EQUIPMENT. DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB If you have something to donate Contact Frank Palmer AC7JY, Property Management Team Leader



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...** and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

Club Officers

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to wg7x@w7dk.org
Vice Pres: Casey Hicks WY7V email to wy7v@w7dk.org
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to kd4vom@w7dk.org
Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to ad7lj@w7dk.org

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Ferguson, N7OMS email to n7oms@w7dk.org
 James Mendenhall KE6WHN email to ke6whn@w7dk.org
 Glen Galati KA7BOJ email to ka7boj@w7dk.org
 Nick Winter K7MO email to k7mo@w7dk.org
 Bruce Hanson WE7P email to we7p@w7dk.org

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor in Chief: "Stop the Presses!!" Mike Finnie, W7MWF email to editor@w7dk.org
Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854
Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...
Send articles to: editor@w7dk.org or Bark, 1506 N Stevens St, Tacoma, WA 98406

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

Want / For Sale ads are free to members. The Logger's Bark does not verify or guarantee statements in the Want For Sale listings. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark if Credit line is included in the article.

Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

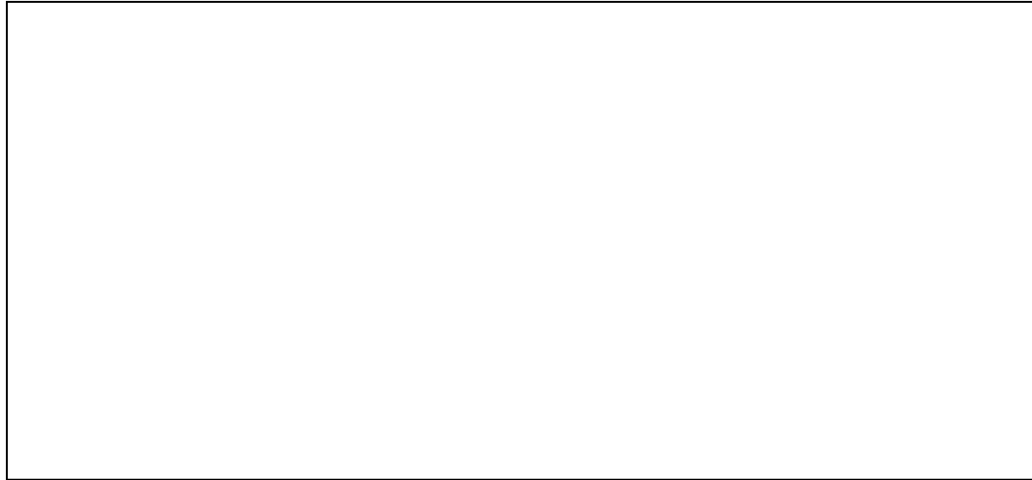
Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 **Central Tacoma Packet:** 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



July 2012 Events

CLUB MEETINGS: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .